

Culpa file

ST. LOUIS, MO.
POST-DISPATCH

e. 344,575

S. 569,578

Front Edit Other
Page Page Page

Date: SEP 13 1964

CRISIS TIMING
CHARGE DENIED
BY SYMINGTONBy a Special Correspondent
of the Post-Dispatch

LEXINGTON, Mo., Sept. 12—

The charge by Senator Barry M. Goldwater, of Arizona, that the late President John F. Kennedy timed the 1962 missile crisis in Cuba for political advantage at home was challenged tonight by Senator Stuart Symington.

The Missouri Democrat asserted that both he and Senator Goldwater were members of the Senate military preparedness investigating committee, and that the Republican candidate for President should know that his charge was not borne out by the record.

Symington said that in the spring of 1963 the subcommittee held extended hearings on the sudden military build-up in Cuba in October 1962.

Re-Examines Record

"In the last two days," Symington said, "I have carefully re-read the record of those hearings. And in the absence of President Kennedy, who is no longer here to defend himself, I am glad to report that the President moved with great dispatch after approving every recommendation made by the head of the Central Intelligence Agency."

The Missouri Senator, a

Lafayette county Democratic meeting, that Goldwater was informed of these matters and had no basis for his charge.

Symington spoke in reply to Goldwater's charge last Wednesday that Kennedy risked atomic war with Russia in an effort to pick up votes for the Democrats in the 1962 congressional races.

"On the same day that the President received firm information the Soviets were moving strategic missiles into Cuba, he so informed congressional leaders," the Missouri Democrat said.

4 Days' Action

"Within four days after the information was confirmed, he had completed the military build-up considered necessary in case the USSR decided not to remove them upon his demand, had informed our Allies of the details of the development, had evacuated our dependents from Guantanamo and had landed marines at that base.

"There upon the President promptly notified the American people of the crisis as well as what he intended to do about it."

Symington said that the crisis was handled efficiently and that the late President demonstrated "cool courage combined with restraint."

He expressed the hope that in the future American leaders will continue to "use our unparalleled power with prudence," warning of the dangers of a nuclear attack.

"For that reason alone," Symington asserted, "the importance of restraint with firmness as exemplified in the Cuban crisis of 1962 and recently in the Tonkin Gulf can not be over-emphasized. Nobody can truly gain from a hydrogen sunset."